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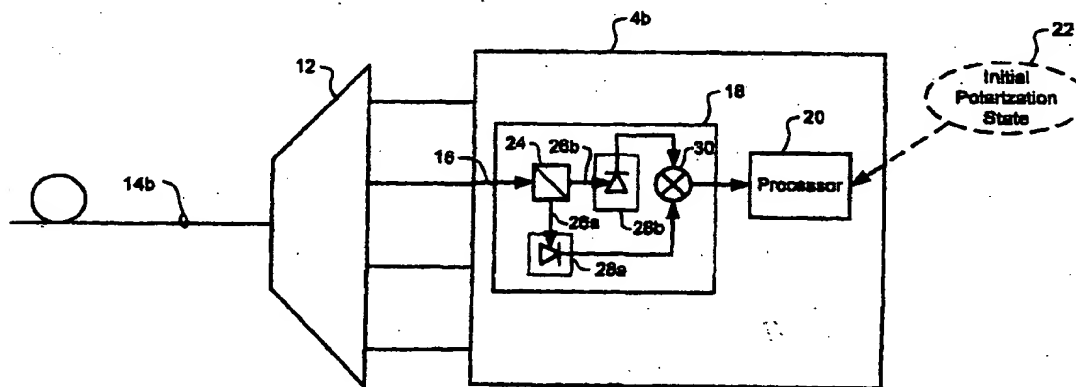
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(54) Measurement of polarization dependent loss in an optical transmission system

(57) A method and system enables measurement of polarization dependent loss (PDL) in an optical communications system including a plurality of cascaded optical components. An optical signal having a predetermined initial polarization state is launched into the opti-

cal communications system. A polarization state of the signal is detected at a selected detection point downstream of the launch point. The PDE is evaluated using the predetermined initial polarization state and the detected polarization state.

Figure 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 23 September 2004	Examiner Carrasco Comes, N
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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